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DAIMLERCHRYSLER INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL CORPORATION
CIMS 483-02-19
800 CHRYSLER DR EAST
AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326-2757

EXAMINER	
VY, HUNG T	

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 10/757,917
Filing Date: January 14, 2004
Appellant(s): SNOW ET AL.

Gordon K. Harris, Jr.
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 11/24/2009 appealing from the Office action mailed 06/26/2009.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The following are the related appeals, interferences, and judicial proceedings known to the examiner which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

U.S. Pub. 2002/0156692	Squeglia et al.	10-2002
U.S. Pub. 2004/0010578	Demetriades et al.	1-2004
U.S. Pub. 2002/0116316	Griffiths	08-2002

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 5-6, 12 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Williams et al. (U.S. pub. US 2003/0055812A1).

Regarding claim 1, Williams et al. discloses a method of assisting (*i.e., "Repair faculties can use the vehicle parts monitoring system to review the repair procedure for the vehicle that they are repairing" (0021)*) in correct diagnosis of a problem (*i.e., "a user or repair person can insert their own notes in the vehicle part monitoring system 100 in a form that follows the vehicle by typing in their notes in a pop-up menu generated by selecting the my notes icon" (0071) and Examiner asserts that the repair person when they repair the car, they will enter the note (hint) that associates with the problem and the part (i.e., "contain the most detailed repair/replacement notes that may be encountered" (0072)*) exhibited by a product having at least one component part (*i.e., "Another input maybe that the engine was repaired with the part provided by a certain service center, with* ***this part number****, on*

a certain data" (0072)), the method comprising: inputting a description of the problem *(i.e., "The user* ***inserts data*** *in the my notes column 399 that is sufficiently large to contain the most* ***detailed repair/replacement*** *notes that may be encountered" (0072)*) a part identifier for the at least one component part (*i.e., "the vehicle system/group category table and the unique vehicle part identifier table is linked to the vehicle part category table" (0011)*), a description of the at least one component part (*i.e., "The part/detailed description column 380 contains a more detailed description of each part contained in the relation database part" (0056) or "would retain the descriptions of significant repair" (0075"*), a product identifier (*i.e., "productID" (502a)(fig. 5)*), and at least one hint for assisting in diagnosing the problem (*Examiner asserts that the repair person when they repair the car, they will enter the note (hint) that associates with the problem and the part (i.e., "contain the most detailed repair/replacement notes that may be encountered" (0072)*), wherein the at lest one hint includes a file that includes a suggestion from an engineering group for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the at least one component part and a repair related to the at least one component part (*i.e., "such industry notes 398 may indicate, e.g., common difficulties with a particular part, and other information that may be of use to the user of the vehicle parts monitoring system" (0070) or "a user or repair person can inset their own notes in the vehicle part by typing in their notes in a pop-up menu" (0071) or "detailed repair/replacement notes" (0072) and Examiner asserts that "repair person" or "industry notes" are equivalent with "engineering group" of claimed invention and "detailed repair/replacement notes" is equivalent with suggest for a failure mode of one part of claim invention*) ,

generating a hint file in the database (*i.e., "The vehicle parts monitoring system includes parts data, parts specifications, parts assembly drawings, parts assembly notes, and other such information in digital formation" (0032) and Examiner asserts that "notes", "information" are equivalent with the limitation "hint" of claimed invention*) and associating it with the at least one component

part (*i.e., "if a particular user is searching for all the assembly notes that relate to a part such as a tie rod, the user can search for the term "tie rod" suing the vehicle parts monitor system 100" (0033)*) ; and

downloading the hint file to a parts ordering system and a parts catalog system (*i.e., "the industry reference number column 394 is* ***automatically updated*** *to reflect the last new part number or the regular production option ….the superseded information has to be* ***updated constantly*** *" (0059) and "the user can be provided with access to a remote network server that is continually updated, as appropriate" (0079), Examiner asserts that "the system parts monitoring system 100" can be used by another user (i.e., "the entire body of* ***manufacturing by data*** *is therefore* ***available to*** *the* ***users, owners, service personal, or/or manufactures*** *" (0028) or user in the ordering system and parts catalog system (i.e., "the vehicle parts monitoring system can also* ***be used*** *as a toll to reverse-****engineer/catalog*** *a large number of parts as h own in the embodiment of assembly parts monitoring system shown in fig. 4" (0091) and before using "the vehicle parts monitoring system" or* ***"prior to a request"****, the user had to "load the all information from the CD" or "accessed from a server over the internet"(0091) to download, therefore, "the hint file" (all information in "the vehicle parts monitoring system" has been load before the user uses and its* ***always automatically updates*** *(0059)*) in association with the part identifier (*i.e., "The information is actually* ***stored in the records*** *in the memory 106. Records for accessing* ***catalog database*** *tend to be long" (0089)*) prior to a request to order to at least one part or an inquiry for the part is made (*i.e., "the GUI display window 114 to access information about the particular part (0089)*) to the parts catalog system so that whenever a request to order the at least one part is entered into the parts ordering system or an inquiry for the part is made to the parts catalog system (*i.e., "if a user runs over the part/detail description column 380 in the first row displayed over the vehicle monitoring system (i.e., the pedal bolt) a drop -down window 612 would appear below the parts/detailed description filed 610 as show in FIG. 6A"(0064) and Examiner assert that when the user uses the "the vehicle monitoring system"(is equivalent with "part catalog*

system" as claimed invention) to "inquiry for the part"), the hint will be displayed (*i.e., "display...a drop down window 612 would appear below the parts/detailed description filed 610" (0064) and Examiner asserts that "the parts/detailed description filed 610" is equivalent with the limitation "hint" as claimed invention or "if a user double clicks on the industry notes column 398 for particular part, e.g., on the icon 630 displayed 3 and 6E, the industry notes* ***display pop up window*** *would appear as illustrated in fig. 6E" (0051) and Examiner asserts that "the industry notes" is equivalent with the limitation "hint" as claimed invention*).

Regarding claim 5, Williams et al. discloses wherein the displayed hint alerts a viewer that the problem will not be solved by replacement of at least one component (*i.e., "the owner or repair person would note these details when placing a repairing these individual parts. The individual notes are displayed in the industry nodes display 634" (0052) and Examiner asserts that the pop-up display "4 needed-2 each side"*).

Regarding claim 6, Williams et al. discloses wherein the displayed hint presents a suggested solution to the problem (*i.e., "industry notes: 4 needed - 2 each side" (634) (Fig. 6E)*).

With respect to claim 12, William et al. discloses an arrangement for assisting ((*i.e., "Repair faculties can use the vehicle parts monitoring system to review the repair procedure for the vehicle that they are repairing" (0021)*) in correct diagnosis of a problem (*i.e., "a user or repair person can insert their own notes in the vehicle part monitoring system 100 in a form that follows the vehicle by typing in their notes in a pop-up menu generated by selecting the my notes icon" (0071) and Examiner asserts that the repair person when they repair the car, they will enter the note (hint) that associates with the problem and the part (i.e., "contain the most detailed repair/replacement notes that may be encountered" (0072)*) exhibited by a product having at least one component part (*i.e., "Another input maybe that the engine was repaired with the part provided by a certain service center, with* ***this part numb****er, on a certain data" (0072)*, the arrangement comprising:

a database and associated database engine (*i.e., "the repair shop or owner could print out an original/replaced/repaired parts list based on data stored in the relational database" (0075) or "searching for parts is time consuming and require considerable cross-referencing for electronic databases" (0088)*) adapted to communicate (see fig. 2) with a plurality of organizations (*i.e., "A user can go to a dealership and by a part" (0084)*) within an entity responsible for distributing the at least one component part to product customers (*i.e., "The user can order parts from the original manufacture. Links to alternative suppliers of the selected part can also be provided in certain embodiments within the billboard window 118") (0092)*),

a parts ordering system (*i.e., "the user may wish to order several parts" (0054)*) and a parts communication catalog system (*i.e., "A user cannot find engineering comments in part catalogs or tat parts suppliers (e.g., Pep Boys)" (0084)*) coupled for with the database and with at least one parts and service providing entity for the product (fig. 2),

wherein the database is operative to receive from at least one of the plurality of organizations a description of the problem *(i.e., "The user **inserts data** in the my notes column 399 that is sufficiently large to contain the most **detailed repair/replacement** notes that may be encountered" (0072)*), a part identifier for the at least one component part (*i.e., "if a particular user is searching for all the assembly notes that relate to a part such as a tie rod, the user can search for the term "tie rod" suing the vehicle parts monitor system 100" (0033)*), a product identifier (*i.e., "productID" (502a)(fig. 5)*), and at least one hint for is operative to receive from at least one of assisting in diagnosing the problem (*Examiner asserts that the repair person when they repair the car, they will enter the note (hint) that associates with the problem and the part (i.e., "contain the most detailed repair/replacement notes that may be encountered" (0072)*), to generate a hint file in the database (*i.e., "The vehicle parts monitoring system includes parts data, parts specifications, parts*

assembly drawings, parts assembly notes, and other such information in digital formation" (0032) and Examiner asserts that "notes", "information" are equivalent with the limitation "hint" of claimed invention), associated with the at least one component part (*i.e., "if a particular user is searching for all the assembly notes that relate to a part such as a tie rod, the user can search for the term "tie rod" suing the vehicle parts monitor system 100" (0033)*), and to download the hint file to the parts ordering system and the parts catalog system prior to receiving a request or an inquiry for the at least one component (*i.e., "the industry reference number column 394 is* ***automatically updated*** *to reflect the last new part number or the regular production option ….the superseded information has to be* ***updated constantly*** *" (0059) and "the user can be provided with access to a remote network server that is continually updated, as appropriate" (0079), Examiner asserts that "the system parts monitoring system 100" can be used by another user (i.e., "the entire body of* ***manufacturing by data*** *is therefore* ***available*** *to the* ***users, owners, service personal, or/or manufactures*** *" (0028) or user in the ordering system and parts catalog system (i.e., "the vehicle parts monitoring system can also* ***be used*** *as a toll to reverse-****engineer/catalog*** *a large number of parts as h own in the embodiment of assembly parts monitoring system shown in fig. 4" (0091) and before using "the vehicle parts monitoring system" or* ***"prior to a request"*** *, the user had to "load the all information from the CD" or "accessed from a server over the internet"(0091) to download, therefore, "the hint file" (all information in "the vehicle parts monitoring system" has been load before the user uses and its* ***always automatically updates*** *(0059)*); and wherein the at lest one hint includes a file that includes a suggestion from an engineering group for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the at least one component part and a repair related to the at least one component part (*i.e., "such industry notes 398 may indicate, e.g., common difficulties with a particular part, and other information that may be of use to the user of the vehicle parts monitoring system" (0070) or "a user or repair person can inset their own notes in the vehicle part by typing in their notes in a pop-up menu" (0071) or "detailed repair/replacement notes" (0072) and Examiner asserts that "repair person" or "industry notes" are*

equivalent with "engineering group" of claimed invention and "detailed repair/replacement notes" is equivalent with suggest for a failure mode of one part of claim invention) ,

wherein the part to order system and the parts catalog system are operative upon receiving said request or said inquiry for the at least one component from the at least one parts (*i.e., "if a user runs over the part/detail description column 380 in the first row displayed over the vehicle monitoring system (i.e., the pedal bolt) a drop -down window 612 would appear below the parts/detailed description filed 610 as show in FIG. 6A"(0064) and Examiner assert that when the user uses the "the vehicle monitoring system"(is equivalent with "part catalog system" as claimed invention) to "inquiry for the part"*) and service providing entity to display the hint to the at least one parts and service providing entity (*i.e., "display...a drop down window 612 would appear below the parts/detailed description filed 610" (0064) and Examiner asserts that "the parts/detailed description filed 610" is equivalent with the limitation "hint" as claimed invention or "if a user double clicks on the industry notes column 398 for particular part, e.g., on the icon 630 displayed 3 and 6E, the industry notes* ***display pop up window*** *would appear as illustrated in fig. 6E" (0051) and Examiner asserts that "the industry notes" is equivalent with the limitation "hint" as claimed invention*).

Regarding claim 16, Williams et al. discloses wherein the displayed hint alerts a viewer that the problem will not be solved by replacement of at least one component (*i.e., "the owner or repair person would note these details when placing a repairing these individual parts. The individual notes are displayed in the industry nodes display 634" (0052) and Examiner asserts that the pop-up display "4 needed-2 each side"*).

Regarding claim 17, Williams et al. discloses wherein the displayed hint presents a suggested solution to the problem (*i.e., "industry notes: 4 needed - 2 each side" (634) (Fig. 6E)*).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth insection 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

a. Claim 2-4, 7, 10-11, 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. pub. US 2003/0055812A1) in view of Squeglia et al. (U.S. pub. US 20020156692A1).

Regarding claim 7, Williams et al. discloses a method of assisting (*i.e., "Repair faculties can use the vehicle parts monitoring system to review the repair procedure for the vehicle that they are repairing" (0021)*) in correct diagnosis of a problem (*i.e., "a user or repair person can insert their own notes in the vehicle part monitoring system 100 in a form that follows the vehicle by typing in their notes in a pop-up menu generated by selecting the my notes icon" (0071) and Examiner asserts that the repair person when they repair the car, they will enter the note (hint) that associates with the problem and the part (i.e., "contain the most detailed repair/replacement notes that may be encountered" (0072)*) exhibited by a product having at least one component part (*i.e., "Another input maybe that the engine was repaired with the part provided by a certain service center, with **this part number**, on a certain data" (0072)*), the method comprising: inputting a description of the problem *(i.e., "The user **inserts data** in the my notes column 399 that is sufficiently large to contain the most **detailed repair/replacement** notes that may be encountered" (0072)*) a part identifier for the at least one component part (*i.e., "the vehicle system/group category table and the unique vehicle part identifier*

table is linked to the vehicle part category table" (0011)), a description of the at least one component part (*i.e., "The part/detailed description column 380 contains a more detailed description of each part contained in the relation database part" (0056) or "would retain the descriptions of significant repair" (0075"*), a product identifier (*i.e., "productID" (502a)(fig. 5)*), and at least one hint for assisting in diagnosing the problem (*Examiner asserts that the repair person when they repair the car, they will enter the note (hint) that associates with the problem and the part (i.e., "contain the most detailed repair/replacement notes that may be encountered" (0072)*),

generating a hint file in the database (*i.e., "The vehicle parts monitoring system includes parts data, parts specifications, parts assembly drawings, parts assembly notes, and other such information in digital formation" (0032) and Examiner asserts that "notes", "information" are equivalent with the limitation "hint" of claimed invention*) and associating it with the at least one component part (*i.e., "if a particular user is searching for all the assembly notes that relate to a part such as a tie rod, the user can search for the term "tie rod" suing the vehicle parts monitor system 100" (0033)*) wherein the at lest one hint includes a file that includes a suggestion for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the at least one component part and a repair related to the at least one component part (*i.e., "such industry notes 398 may indicate, e.g., common difficulties with a particular part, and other information that may be of use to the user of the vehicle parts monitoring system" (0070) or "a user or repair person can inset their own notes in the vehicle part by typing in their notes in a pop-up menu" (0071) or "detailed repair/replacement notes" (0072) and Examiner asserts that "repair person" or "industry notes" are equivalent with "engineering group" of claimed invention and "detailed repair/replacement notes" is equivalent with suggest for a failure mode of one part of claim invention*);

and

downloading the hint file to a parts ordering system and a parts catalog system (*i.e., "the industry reference number column 394 is* ***automatically updated*** *to reflect the last new part*

number or the regular production option ….the superseded information has to be ***updated constantly****" (0059) and "the user can be provided with access to a remote network server that is continually updated, as appropriate" (0079), Examiner asserts that "the system parts monitoring system 100" can be used by another user (i.e., "the entire body of* ***manufacturing by data*** *is therefore* ***available t****o the* ***users, owners, service personal, or/or manufactures****" (0028) or user in the ordering system and parts catalog system (i.e., "the vehicle parts monitoring system can also* ***be used*** *as a toll to reverse-****engineer/catalog*** *a large number of parts as h own in the embodiment of assembly parts monitoring system shown in fig. 4" (0091) and before using "the vehicle parts monitoring system" or* ***"prior to a request"****, the user had to "load the all information from the CD" or "accessed from a server over the internet"(0091) to download, therefore, "the hint file" (all information in "the vehicle parts monitoring system" has been load before the user uses and its* ***always automatically updates*** *(0059)*) in association with the part identifier (*i.e., "The information is actually* ***stored in the record****s in the memory 106. Records for accessing* ***catalog database*** *tend to be long" (0089)*) prior to a request to order to at least one part or an inquiry for the part is made (*i.e., "the GUI display window 114 to access information about the particular part (0089)*) to the parts catalog system so that whenever a request to order the at least one part is entered into the parts ordering system or an inquiry for the part is made to the parts catalog system (*i.e., "if a user runs over the part/detail description column 380 in the first row displayed over the vehicle monitoring system (i.e., the pedal bolt) a drop -down window 612 would appear below the parts/detailed description filed 610 as show in FIG. 6A"(0064) and Examiner assert that when the user uses the "the vehicle monitoring system"(is equivalent with "part catalog system" as claimed invention) to "inquiry for the part"*), the hint will be displayed (*i.e., "display...a drop down window 612 would appear below the parts/detailed description filed 610" (0064) and Examiner asserts that "the parts/detailed description filed 610" is equivalent with the limitation "hint" as claimed invention or "if a user double clicks on the industry notes column 398 for particular part, e.g., on the icon 630 displayed 3 and 6E, the industry notes* ***display pop up window*** *would appear as illustrated in fig.*

6E" (0051) and Examiner asserts that "the industry notes" is equivalent with the limitation "hint" as claimed invention).

But Williams et al. does not explicitly discloses forwarding the hint file to an authorized vehicle platform team; refining the hint file in accordance with input from the authorized vehicle platform team; forward the refined hint file to an approval organization for review, further refinement if necessary, and approval, resulting in an approved hint file.

However, Squeglia et al. discloses forwarding the hint file to an authorized vehicle platform team (*i.e., "a recommendation authorizing system 182" (0061)*);

refining the hint file in accordance with input from the authorized vehicle platform team (*i.e., "The recommendation can include suggested trouble shooting actions to further refine the repair recommendation. suggested repairs based on operational and/or failure information the repair technician, or planned maintenance actions, or field modification or upgrades" (0034)*).

forwarding the refined hint file to an approval organization for review (*i.e., "if the software version is not compatible with other hardware or software components of the locomotive 12, approval for integration will not be granted" (0041) and Examiner asserts that an approval organization proceeding to download only after the portal or a specific locomotive has compatible hardware or software (0040)*), further refinement if necessary, and approval, resulting in an approved hint file (*i.e., "Diagnosis information can be returned to the MDSC 20 in real time via the portable unit 14 for further analysis in the development and refinement of a repair recommendation" (0034)*); and

It would have been to one of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made to implement Williams et al. et al. 's system with forwarding the hint file to an authorized vehicle platform team, refining the hint file (notes or any information's) in

accordance with input from the authorized vehicle platform team, forward the refined hint file to an approval organization for review, further refinement if necessary, and approval, resulting in an approved hint file in order to help user or technical to get correct diagnosis with exactly hint by the experienced technician, therefore, the user can give various technologies variable for more efficiently predicting and performing the repair for the stated purpose has been well know in the art as evidenced by teaching of Squeglia et al. (see 0003-0007). Further, the notes, the information and data are refined by the experienced technician and are downloaded, installed the information to "the vehicle parts and monitoring system" with give the user having the system with more accurate hints, note and information about the problem of particular part.

Regarding claim 2, Squeglia et al. discloses further comprising prior to the downloading of the hint file: forwarding the hind file (*i.e., "the diagnosis" (0061)*) to an authorized product team (*i.e., "a recommendation authorizing system 182" (0061)*); and refining (*i.e., "The recommendation can include suggested trouble shooting actions to further refine the repair recommendation" (0034)*) the hint file in accordance with inputs from the authorized product team (*i.e., "suggested repairs based on operational and/or failure information the repair technician, or planned maintenance actions, or field modification or upgrades" (0034)*) (The motivation is the same as claim 7).

Regarding claim 3, Squeglia et al. discloses further comprising prior to downloading (*i.e., "validates software application prior to loading into a specific locomotive 12" (0041)*) the hint file: for forwarding the hind (*i.e., "*a diagnosis or repair*" (0040)*) file to an approval organization (54)(*i.e., "if the software version is not compatible with other hardware or software*

components of the locomotive 12, approval for integration will not be granted" (0041) and Examiner asserts that an approval organization proceeding to download only after the portal or a specific locomotive has compatible hardware or software (0040)); and proceeding to download (*i.e., "downloads repair recommendations generated by analysis software" (0026)*) only after approval (*i.e., "validates software application prior to loading into a specific locomotive 12" (0041)*) of the hint file (*i.e., "*a diagnosis or repair*" (0040)*) by the approval organization (*i.e., "validates software application prior to loading into a specific locomotive 12" (0041)*) (The motivation is the same as claim 7).

Regarding claim 4, Squeglia et al. discloses further comprising prior to downloading (*i.e., "validates software application prior to loading into a specific locomotive 12" (0041)*) the hint file: for forwarding the hind (*i.e., "*a diagnosis or repair*" (0040)*) file to an approval organization (54)(*i.e., "if the software version is not compatible with other hardware or software components of the locomotive 12, approval for integration will not be granted" (0041) and Examiner asserts that an approval organization proceeding to download only after the portal or a specific locomotive has compatible hardware or software (0040)*); and proceeding to download (*i.e., "downloads repair recommendations generated by analysis software" (0026)*) only after approval (*i.e., "validates software application prior to loading into a specific locomotive 12" (0041)*) of the hint file (*i.e., "*a diagnosis or repair*" (0040)*) by the approval organization (*i.e., "validates software application prior to loading into a specific locomotive 12" (0041)*) (The motivation is the same as claim 7).

Regarding claim 10, Williams et al. discloses wherein the displayed hint alerts a viewer that the problem will not be solved by replacement of at least one component (*i.e., "the owner or repair person would note these details when placing a repairing these individual parts. The individual notes are displayed in the industry nodes display 634" (0052) and Examiner asserts that the pop-up display "4 needed-2 each side"*).

Regarding claim 11, Squeglia et al. discloses wherein the displayed (*i.e., "assistance to the technician via the portable unit 14" (0026)*) hint presents a suggested solution to the problem (*i.e., "Problem resolution suggestions and repair actions can be crated prior to access by the repair technician or they can be authored in real time by experts at the monitoring and diagnostic service center" (0026)*) (The motivation is the same as claim 7).

With respect to claim 13, Squeglia et al. discloses the plurality of organizations include a team of specialists for the product (*i.e., "the repair expert 142 in formulating the repair recommendation" (0066)*), wherein the database engine (*i.e., "various exemplary databases and the module system" (0031)*) is further operative to forward the hint file to the team for refining the file (*i.e., "The recommendation can include suggested trouble shooting actions to further refine the repair recommendation" (0034)*) (The motivation is the same as claim 7).

With respect to claim 14, Squeglia et al. discloses wherein the plurality of organizations includes an approval organization (*i.e., "if the software version is not compatible with other hardware or software components of the locomotive 12, approval for integration will not be granted" (0041) and Examiner asserts that an approval organization proceeding to download only after the portal or a specific locomotive has compatible hardware or software (0040*)); and wherein the database engine (*i.e., "various exemplary databases and the module system" (0031)*) is further operative to inhibit downloading of the hint file until receipt of approval from the approval organization (*i.e., "validates software application prior to loading into a specific locomotive 12" (0041)*) (The motivation is the same as claim 7).

b. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Squeglia et al. (U.S. pub. US 20020156692A1) and Williams et al. (U.S. pub. US

2003/0055812A1) and further in view of Demetriades et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0010578).

Regarding claim 9, William et al. and Squeglia et al. disclose all limitation claimed invention recited in claim 7 excepted for translation service. However, Demetriades et al discloses the translation service (see paragraph 0161). It would have been to one of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made to implement William et al. and Squeglia et al. 's system with the translation service in order to have different kind of country can have service with the same system and making the system more useful since such an arrangement with translation service for the stated purpose has been well know in the art as evidenced by teaching of Demetriades et al. (see paragraph 0161).

c. Claims 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. pub. US 2003/0055812A1) and Squeglia et al. (U.S. pub. US 20020156692A1) and further in view of Griffiths (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0116316).

Regarding claims 8 and 15, Squeglia et al. and William et al. disclose all limitation claimed invention recited in claims 7 and 12 excepted for preventing a completion of placing an order to the at least one part until a requester enters an acknowledgement to the parts ordering system acknowledging that the hint has been displayed. However, Griffiths discloses preventing a completion of placing an order to the at least one part until a requester enters an acknowledgement to the parts ordering system acknowledging that the hint has been displayed (*i.e., "listing registration system 402*

can interface with existing users of an auction system 104 and can present them with additional contractual obligations that may need to be entered into in order to allow their listing to be placed on other auction systems" (0042) and Examiner asserts that "to allow the listing" is the same limitation "completion placing an order for the at least one part" and "additional contractual obligations" is equivalent with limitation of "enters an acknowledgement" of claimed invention). It would been to one of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made to implement William et al. and Squeglia et al.'s system with created condition before to place order in order to make sure that user places an order with the accurate part and while preventing the lot from inadvertently being awarded to two different bidders (user placing an order) since such an arrangement with condition for the stated purpose has been well know in the art as evidenced by teaching of Griffiths (0042).

(10) Response to Argument

I. (Issue): Reject on under 35 U.S.C 102

a. In the first argument, the Appellant states "*With respect to claim 1, Williams does not show, teach or suggest that whenever a request to order to at least one part is entered into a parts ordering system or an inquiry for the part is made to a parts catalog system, the hint will be displayed. Applicant's hint includes a file that includes a suggestion from an engineering group for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the at least one component part or a repair related to the at least one component part*" last paragraph, page 6.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. The claim recites "whenever said request to order the at least one part is entered into the parts ordering system or said inquire for the part is made to the parts catalog system, the hint will be displayed". Williams clearly

shows inquire for the part is made to the part catalog system or order part (*i.e., "When a different query is subsequently applied to the data in the relation database, the table, or tables, displayed to the user will be modified accordingly" (0029) or "The monitoring system 100 captures the different pieces of information and assembles them into one database that can be accessed by a user over a graphical user interface" (0030)*) and Examiner interprets **the monitoring system 110** as being the same as the "parts catalog system", since it functions as a feature that allows the user to order a part (i.*e., "**to order** a part from the vehicle or parts manufacture in another embodiment of **vehicle parts monitoring system**...the user then click the part to purchase the part" (0104)*). Further, fig. 6A to 6F illustrates another GUI display 114 shown in fig. 3 for searching, entering, or inquired the particular part, for example, the part name filed 378 (fig. 3) etc. William also discloses GUI 114 displays different kind of hint such as "part/detail description" (610) or "the industry notes" (630) depend on what kind of hint that user want to see. Therefore, when the user **clicks hint for particular parts**, (inquiry for the part as claim), the industry notes column 398 display pops up a window (see fig. 6E). Furthermore, the Appellant alleges that Williams does not disclose "the automatically displayed hints of claim 1". Examiner does not agree since the claim 1 does not support Appellant's argument; claim 1 does not recite "automatically displayed hints". Williams discloses that user can select or click on particular part on different column, or hint etc. in order to display the column or hint. Therefore, Williams discloses a request to order to at least one part is entered into a parts ordering system or an inquiry for the part is made to a parts catalog system, the hint will be displayed.

b. In the second argument, the Appellant states "*Further, the industry notes of Williams are not hints. Hints, as in claim 1, include a suggestion from an engineering group for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the at least one component part and a repair related to the at least one component part…which clearly differs from database access, as Williams*" pages 7-13.

Examiner respectfully disagrees because the detailed information in the pop-up window clearly constitutes hints, meeting every meaning as intended by claim 1. The hints include a suggestion from an engineering group for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the least one component part and a repair related to the at least one component part (*i.e., "*"*a user or repair person can inset their own notes in the vehicle part by typing in their notes in a pop-up menu" (0071) or "**the user insets data in the my notes column 399** that is sufficiently large to contain the most detailed repair/replacement notes that may be encountered" (0072) or "detailed repair/replacement notes" (0072) or **Applicant admitted** that "the notes are input during repair/replacement of parts" (page 6, last paragraph)))* and wherein the at least one hint includes a file that includes a suggestion from an engineering group for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the at least one component part and a repair related to the at least one component part (*i.e., "such industry notes 398 may indicate, e.g., common difficulties with a particular part, and other information that may be of use to the user of the vehicle parts monitoring system" (0070) or "a user or repair person can inset their own notes in the vehicle part by typing in their notes in a pop-up menu" (0071) or "detailed repair/replacement notes" (0072) and Examiner asserts that "repair person" or "industry notes" are equivalent with "engineering group" of claimed invention and "detailed repair/replacement notes" is equivalent with suggest for a failure mode of one part of claim invention*). Generating a hint file in a database and associating the hint file at least one component part or downloading the hint filed to a parts ordering system and a parts

catalog system (see rejection above). Further, Appellant argued that "notes" and "information" of Williams are not hints but based on the dictionary [1] defines hint such an "indirect or summary suggestion" or "slight indication of the existence" and William discloses "*contain the most detained repair/replacement notes that may be encountered*" (0072) or "*parts assembly notes, and other such information in digital format*" (0032). There is no distinction between "hint" and "notes" as the Examiner explains above. Therefore, repair/replacement notes or parts assembly notes and other such information are hints since they provide the suggestions that help users making good use of the found information. The notes (parts assembly, repair/replacement) for detailed repair or replacement notes or common difficulties with a particular part in the database are hint for suggestion for solution to the problem associated with for particular part.

Therefore, claim 1 is unpatentable over Williams since Williams discloses all limitations of claimed invention.

II. **(Issue) Rejection under 35 U.S.C 103**

c. In the third argument, the Appellant states "*With respect to claim 7, Williams and Squeglia do not show, teach, or suggest forwarding the refined hind file to an approval organization for review, further refinement and approval, resulting is an approved hint filed. Further, both Williams and Squeglia teach away from this element*" last paragraph 9.

[1] Merriam-Webster's Collegiate dictionary- Tenth edition

Appellant alleges that Williams and Squeglia do not teach or suggest forwarding the refined hind file to an approval organization for review, further refinement and approval, resulting is an approved hint filed.

Examiner respectfully disagrees, because Squeglia discloses forwarding the hint file to an authorized product team specialists (*i.e., "a recommendation authorizing system 182 provides the functionality for authorizing general repair recommendations and instantiating specific recommendations for a locomotive…**selects only that information needed** for a specific repair" (0062) or "**the technician** is able to choose the order in which the **inspection is conducted only**" (0037) or "the **appropriate inspection procedures**" (0036) or "a monitoring board providing information on the status of the various in process repairs" (0089)*) and the limitation "*authorized product team specialist*" is interpreted in broadest term and can be just people or system have authorized and specialist to approve or select the hind or recommendation file. Therefore, "a recommendation authorizing system", "technician inspects procedures" (specialized), or "a monitoring board" or "stagnant software" can be "authorized product team specialized" to approve, select, inspection the hint or recommendation. As Appellant's argued that Williams teaches that the notes are input during repair/replacement of parts but the notes are stored in the database (first paragraph, page 10) and that can be refined or modify and approved by specialist in order to get accuracy and important notes, that is the reason for Squeglia's reference to add the refining and approval the notes. Further, the recommendations or notes were stored in the database had been refined and should be approved by organization. Therefore, both Williams and Squeglia support each other to improve the note from Williams's system. Furthermore, Examiner indicates that William discloses many kinds of hint that can be displayed

when user selects the hint for particular parts that including industry node or my notes. Therefore, claims 2-4, 7, 10-11 and 13-14 are not patentable.

d. In the fourth argument, the Appellant states "*Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Squeglia and Williams and further in view of Demetriades. Claims 8 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Williams and Squeglia and further in view of Griffths....Demetriades and Griffiths do not remedy the deficiencies of Willams and Squeglia with respect to claims 7 and 12. Claims 8, 9 and 15 ultimately depend from claims 7 and 12 and are therefore in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons*" Pages 11-12.

Examiner does not agree because Demetriades, used as further support, to further the teachings of Griffiths and Williams, clearly provide a desired motivation to translate the service. Implementing Demetriades's translation would clearly expand the usability of the system formed in view of Williams and Squeglia. As such, Demetriades clearly offers supportive reasoning that further renders the teachings of Williams and Squeglia obvious with respect to claims 7, 8, 9 and 12 (see rejection above). Therefore, Claim 8, 9 and 12 are not patentable.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

/Hung T Vy/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2163

Conferees:

Don Wong

/don wong/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2163

/Charles Rones/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164